

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
March 5, 2012

The Whitley County Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, March 5, 2012 in the Commissioner's Room located on the first floor of the Whitley County Government Center. Commissioners in attendance were Don Amber, Tom Rethlake and George Schrumpf. Also in attendance were Auditor Jen McGuire, Dan Sigler, Amy Crickmore, Otto Boschet Jr, James Thomlison- Post & Mail, Michael Barton, Brandon Forrester, April Whetstone, Mark Hodges, Katie Wagner, Mark Myhnier, Stanley Crum, Debbie Beers Mark Sturtevant and Dennis Fenker.

Chairman Amber called the Commissioner meeting to order.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY: Dan Sigler, County Attorney, gave an update on projects he has been working on for the County. A Tort claim for an accident that was on a State Highway, within the City limits, and he was not going to "Respond" which deems the County is denying any involvement in the accident. A refinance for the Bond Loans held by the County for Micropulse are being refinanced and Dan is working with Barrett & McNagny on behalf of the County. No date has been given by the Assessor when she is resigning, but an additional Deputy Assessor has been hired to increase the staff. Attorney Sigler presented an amendment for the Probation's contract with Cedar Bridge that houses juveniles, the amendment will add 45 days at a cost of \$89.00 a day for a total of \$4005 for the overall cost increase. Schrumpf made a motion to accept the amendment on behalf of the Commissioners, seconded by Rethlake and passed with a 3/0 vote of approval. Next Sheriff Hodges and Attorney Sigler presented Ordinance #2012-04 that amends the fee schedule for conducting Sheriff Sale for Real Property. Sheriff Hodges gave a breakdown of all the cost involved from his department for each sale, from time, to the postage and the notification that need to be done on each Sale, starting with a base price of \$83.00 but not to exceed the State guidelines of \$200 per Sale. After some clarification of the language that needed to be used on the Ordinance, Attorney Sigler made the changes, Commissioner Rethlake made a motion to approve the Ordinance #2012-04, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote to sign. After legal publication of the Ordinance it will become effective. Next Sigler had a request for use of an office within the Government Center to conduct County business, his law firm recently moved to Allen County and he wants to be available for appointments when he is here. After discussion of different locations will be available for him to use on the Mondays that the Commissioner's meet or any other time needed.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS: Minutes from the regular meeting from February 21, 2012 were reviewed, a motion to approve as submitted was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Commissioner Amber had reviewed the claims for March 5, 2012 disbursements, a motion to approve claims was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COORDINATOR: Amy Crickmore presented an Ordinance to the Commissioners that would make a change to the County Handbook in regards to E-verifying any new hires. After discussion it was determined that an Ordinance did not need to be done to make the change to the County Handbook and that Amy was already doing the verification for all new hires. Amy researched the two different vendors being used to conduct Drug Testing in the County, Parkview will be able to do the DOT screens at the Highway and she is looking into the cost difference and will report back if it is feasible to change to one vendor. Also a request to use the Courthouse Gazebo was made by the Compassionate Friends, the date is August 11, 2012 from 7:30 to 8am to register walkers. A motion to approve the use was made by Schrumpf, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. A request for FMLA for an employee was granted for surgery, the six weeks will be covered by the employee and if the entire twelve weeks will be needed there is a bank of time donated by other County employees. Also discussed were the two different positions that were re-factored by the Personnel Committee, the first was the new position in the Assessor's office for Deputy Assessor, factored to a COMOT #2 with a base of \$29,440, the second was juvenile Circuit Court position that was factored from a COMOT #2 to a COMOT #1 position for a base pay of \$32,535 for 2012 and back pay to the January pay. Amy requested to attend a HR Law meeting in Fort Wayne on April 10, 2012, the cost will be \$149 to attend, a motion by Rethlake was made to allow the expense, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER POLL LOCATIONS 2012: Debbie Beers, County Clerk, gave an updated "Notice of Voting Locations" for 2012. The election committee had taken the time to visit each site and make sure the poll locations were acceptable to all the restrictions and codes outlined by the

State. A motion to approve the voting locations was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and approved with a 3/0 vote from the Commissioners. Next Debbie requested funding for the location in Thorncreek that is at Big Lake Church of God, the location needs a paved handicap parking spot, the church was already looking into some paving so the County will pay for the portion required to meet guidelines by the State for a polling location.

IN THE MATTER APPOINTMENT: A previous request from the Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Conservation and Development requested the Commissioners to appoint a representative to attend the meetings on their behalf. After getting the word out to citizens Stanley Crum requested to be appointed. After discussion of the meetings and locations, Commissioner Schrumpf made a motion to appoint Mr. Crum on behalf of the Commissioners to the Wood-Land-Lakes 2012 Council Board, seconded by Rethlake and carried with a 3/0 vote. Chairman Amber thanked Stanley for his involvement for the County.

IN THE MATTER COURTHOUSE REPAIRS: Mark Sturtevant and Denny Fenker, Maintenance, came before the Commissioners with updates on the Courthouse structure. At first the project that needed repaired this year was going to be the boilers and chillers for the Courthouse heating/cooling systems, but after a report on the actual structure of the exterior of the courthouse building was discussed the work on the outside of the building was going to take precedence over heating/cooling system. Two companies have been contacted to give quotes on the work needed done, the base quote was for around \$130,000, and the second quote has not been turned back in for the project. After discussion of doing the entire Courthouse at one time was discussed and pricing will come for that also. If the second quote does not come in then we will move ahead as if that was a “No” response on the project. A motion by Rethlake to give a favorable recommendation to the Council for the expenses to be paid out of Cum Cap #256 for 2012 for the repairs to the exterior of the County Courthouse was made, seconded by Schrumpf and passed with a 3/0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY HIGHWAY: Michael Barton reported to the Commissioners that the Department of Local Government and Finance had requested for the second year in a row to reduce the overall Highway budget. After discussion on the previous cuts and that they were not carried through to the 2012 budget it was determined there was still a short fall of around \$100,000 for the year. Commissioner Amber reminded Barton that they had allocated \$133,000 out of CEDIT for the Highway. The Highway budget will need to be held at around the \$2.1 million so it does not exceed the funding from the MVH and gas tax. Michael let the Commissioner know that if needed some appropriations for salaries could be funded from the County General.

IN OTHER BUSINESS: April Whetstone wanted to know if a determination had been made on the copier/printer contract for the County, at this time no decision has been made probably by the Commissioner’s March 19, 2012 meeting. The Commissioner’s appropriation for the TROY Center was discussed. A request from Paula Worden wants the funds to support wages for the teachers and transportation officers currently at the Troy Center, after discussion a motion to cut a check for the entire \$25,000 to Fund #612 for the Center was made by Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote. Auditor McGuire wanted recommendation from the Commissioner’s on where they wanted the Spyglass bill paid for the cost savings to the County phone/internet bill. After discussion determination was made that it should be funded out of the telephone expense for 2012 appropriations. Commissioner Rethlake requested that someone from Child Services report to the Commissioners on the procedures in Whitley County and maybe the Probation department also. Reminder that April is “County Government” month and what the Commissioners wanted to do whether it be an Open House, tours from the grade schools again, or something with the high school Government classes. Also Rethlake wants to know what needs done to do a “Proclamation” on behalf of County Government in April for County Government. Commissioner Schrumpf reported that the Gov Pro was up and working throughout the County and that he will report back on any cost savings. Also that a determination on the Print Management implemented to the entire County will be ready for the March 19, 2012 Commissioner meeting. Commissioner Amber reported that the new SUV for the Health department has been delivered and the other three Fusion cars will be picked up from the dealer tomorrow. The other two SUVs requested from Probation and Community Correction will not be here for another month and will be funded from their own departments. Chairman Amber reminded the others that the Wind Ordinance will be coming before them in the April meeting and that he will be out of town for the April 2, 2012 meeting so no decision or discussion will be until the second meeting April 16, 2012. Amber had meet with Chad Patton from AGA last week and decided they did not need to come before the Commissioners in a meeting to discuss the entire year of funding for the Group insurance, but just a brief overview is all that is needed with recommendations. Commissioner Amber had spent the day with Michael Barton from the Highway in Allen County to discuss the shared intersection at County Line and Liberty Mills, if the project goes through it will cost Whitley County around 20% of the project which amount to about \$97,000. The only location in Whitley County for a County employee to have a free blood is now at Dr. Hannis’s office, no more free lab work since it moved to the Parkview Hospital location. Notification from the Smith-Green School that it is engaging in a \$6,000,000

building project and that a common wage hearing will be held the second week in March for the project. The County Commissioner’s appointment will be David Johnson as the Boards representative. More information will be needed for the refinancing of the Bond Loan on the Government Center, Umbaugh and Associates will be contacting the Whitley County Holding Corp and researching for lenders at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY PERMIT: A Utility Permit from Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) with a request to install 820 feet of 2” plastic gas main to service 175 E Keiser Road. The County Engineer Brandon Forrester had already verified, with a motion from Rethlake, seconded by Schrumpf and carried with a 3/0 vote the Commissioners signed granting the request.

With no further business or comments from the public the meeting was suspended by Chairman Amber until further notice.

WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Don Amber, Chairman

George Schrumpf, Vice Chairman

Tom Rethlake, Member

Attest: _____
Jennifer McGuire
Auditor